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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 63% Mostly cloudy Sensex 77,100 | Nifty 24,056 | Gold 1,44,575 | Silver 2,23,286 | Dollar 94.33 | Euro 107.60 | GBP 124.63

WASTE WOES

Apartment complexes yet to come fully on board, but they have been asked to register on portal within 3 days

PAGE 6

POISON PLOT

Year after Karnataka's worst wildlife poisoning tragedy, trial still drags on as conservationists seek stronger deterrence measures

PAGE 9

Social media post showing tactile pathway leading straight into tree sparks discussions about lack of planning when it comes to urban accessibility projects; disability advocate calls Bengaluru most dangerous city for visually impaired

STAY ON THIS PATH AND WE ARE GETTING NOWHERE

Continuity ensures that tactile cues remain reliable, allowing users to navigate public spaces with confidence

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A social media post highlighting a flaw in a laid tactile pathway for visually impaired pedestrians in Bengaluru has sparked criticism over the planning and execution of pedestrian infrastructure in the city.

The post, shared on X by a user identified as Prasad BN, showed photographs of a footpath featuring tactile paving designed to guide visually impaired persons. However, the pathway appears to lead directly into a tree standing in the middle of the sidewalk.

Tagging the Bengaluru civic authorities and pedestrian advocacy groups, the user questioned whether the tactile paving was installed with a genuine purpose or merely as a design feature.

"Tactile pavement for blind people. So that blind people can walk through tree. Pavement for a purpose or just a design," the post said.

The accompanying images show yellow tactile tiles running along the footpath before abruptly meeting the tree trunk. In another section, the pathway appears to continue beyond the obstruction, raising concerns about the usability and safety of the facility for visually impaired pedestrians.

> **"A single planner or coordinating authority must oversee the entire journey—from design to execution—so that essential features like tactile paving remain continuous, consistent and usable for the people who depend on them**
>
> —Anita Iyer Narayan, disability rights advocate

The post attracted significant attention online, drawing thousands of views and prompting discussions about accessibility standards and urban planning.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

Underground market gathers dust

Nearly two years after launch, costly subterranean shopping hub stands largely deserted, exposing planning failures

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Krishnadevaraya Palike Bazar, billed as the first air-conditioned underground market of its kind owned by Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC), has found few takers even 23 months after its official inauguration. The market, constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 14 crore, has 79 shops, but most remain shut as few street vendors have shown interest in renting them.

Residents and social activists complain that walking on the footpath has become difficult due to street vendors operating petty shops there. Adding to the problem, vehicles parked haphazardly on both sides of the service road have created further obstacles for pedestrians.

Demanding that BWCC authorities relocate street vendors to the underground market, social activist Veeresh BH said the authorities had failed to make the best use of a facility built specifically for their rehabilitation.

"I wrote to the authorities emphasising the need to generate revenue from the market and relocate street vendors operating on the footpath along the service road.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

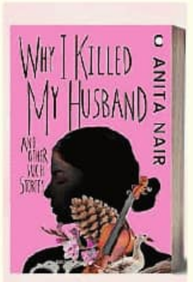
THINGS TO DO

01 Tails on the trail

Storyteller Vikram Sridhar will be hosting a walk through the lanes of Indiranagar, exploring the area's folklore, heritage and ecology, weaving together historical, mythical and personal narratives that bring the neighbourhood to life. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: June 27, 7 am**

02 Readers' rendezvous

Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru invites book lovers to immerse themselves in the world of stories, ideas and inspiration at the Big Bangalore Book Fest, where celebrated literary voices will engage readers through exclusive author meet-and-greet sessions. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; When: June 27, 5 pm**



03 Rhythm of dawn

Acclaimed sarangi artist Sarfaraaz Khan will be performing for an intimate recital featuring a morning raga, bringing a morning where melody, atmosphere and the rhythms of the day unite in a contemplative musical journey. **Where: Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre; When: June 28, 7.30 am**

04 Tradition takes over

Natanam Institute of Dance presents 'Nruthya Sammilana', a grand Bharatanatyam recital featuring Maanasa Ranga and Divya Vijayalakshmi Dharmarajan, disciples of renowned Bharatanatyam exponent Vidushi Dr Raksha Karthik. **Where: Medai – The Stage, Shanthala Nagar; When: June 28, 10 am**

05 Musical evening

Holy Ghost Church will host a choir concert titled Cathedral Windows, featuring two leading Western classical choirs – Cappella Bangalore and The Bangalore Men, offering moments of contemplation, splendour and profound artistic expression. **Where: Holy Ghost Church; When: June 27, 7.30 pm**

Citizens allege wrongful capture of stray dogs

Dogs captured after biting incident were seized merely to placate angry locals and not based on evidence, say residents, insisting that they are docile and not responsible for attack

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A recent dog bite incident involving a four-year-old child in CQAL Layout, Sahakarnagar, has triggered a dispute between animal welfare volunteers, local residents and civic authorities over the alleged wrongful capture of two community dogs that caretakers insist were not involved in the attack. The incident occurred on June 14 when a four-year-old child, whose parents work as watchmen at a nearby construction site and reside in a temporary hut, was allegedly attacked by a pack of stray dogs while playing outside during a drizzle.

According to animal welfare activist and SPCA member Sujaya Jagadish, preliminary accounts suggest that the dogs involved in the attack were not regular residents of the street. "The child had stepped outside when a pack of around six dogs was running down the road. One dog walked past the child, who got frightened and started running. The dog then chased the child, after which the entire pack attacked. The dogs involved were completely new to the area and were not part of the locality," Jagadish said.

Following the incident, officials reportedly captured two dogs known locally as "Scooby" and "Shadow" and shifted them to the Asara Animal Shelter in Sumanahalli. However, caretakers and animal welfare volunteers allege that the dogs were picked up merely to appease angry residents rather than based on evidence linking them to the attack. "They told us the dogs would be kept for ten days to calm down the public. This is a fraudulent pickup because the actual dogs involved in the attack are still roaming free and no serious efforts have been made to trace them," Jagadish alleged.

Animal welfare advocates argue that identifying correct dogs, carrying out sterilisation and vaccination, and ensuring responsible community care are critical to preventing future incidents

In a video shared, the girl's parents stated that the two captured dogs were not the ones who attacked her, adding that she often played with them.

Animal caregivers in the area maintain that the two dogs are long-term community dogs that have lived in the lane for several years and have never displayed aggressive behaviour.

Incident has reignited discussions around handling of human-dog conflicts

Maria Sindhu, who has been feeding and caring for the dogs, said Scooby has been in the locality for nearly seven years, while Shadow is known for its calm temperament. "After Covid, Scooby has been living in our lane. Shadow is very quiet and mostly eats, sleeps and keeps to itself. They may bark when strangers enter the area, but they have never attacked anyone. Last August, officials took Scooby to the Asara centre for vaccination and returned him," she said.

Sindhu further alleged that some residents had been demanding the removal of all dogs from the street and blamed Scooby and Shadow despite repeated objections from caretakers. "When officials came to capture them, I kept telling them these were not the dogs involved. We even shared evidence showing they had picked up the wrong dogs, but nobody listened. Since June 16, the dogs have been at the shelter under isolation. The six dogs that attacked the child are still missing," she said.

The incident has reignited discussions around Bengaluru's Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme and the handling of dog-human conflicts. Animal welfare advocates argue that identifying the correct dogs, carrying out sterilisation and vaccination, and ensuring responsible community care are critical to preventing future incidents.

Volunteers have also raised concerns about the prolonged confinement of dogs in facilities meant primarily for sterilisation and vaccination procedures, calling for greater transparency in the city's response to dog bite cases. Animal activists say they are awaiting the release of Scooby and Shadow, while expressing concerns about the dogs' safety upon their return to the neighbourhood. A member from Citizens for Animal Birth Control said, "ABC, ARV has to be done on a rampage. Efforts and infrastructure should improve with immediate effect."

Procession of Faith Shia Muslims take part in Muharram procession to mark Ashura at Johnson market in Bengaluru on Friday

Chain stuck in door was behind Purple Line disruption

A commuter's metal chain lodged in a metro train door caused an 18-minute service disruption on Bengaluru's Purple Line on Thursday evening, affecting trains between 7.36 pm and 7.54 pm at Cubbon Park Metro Station. According to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), the chain became trapped in the train door guideway, preventing the doors from closing and forcing operations staff to halt the train until the obstruction was removed. A preliminary investigation by BMRCL's operations and maintenance teams found that the delay was caused by the trapped chain, not by any fault in the train. A detailed examination of the train and its door systems confirmed no technical malfunction. BMRCL said all prescribed safety protocols were followed before the train was cleared to resume service and reiterated its commitment to ensuring safe, reliable and efficient metro operations. — BMB

Fresh tender floated for upgradation of ORR stretch

B-SMILE has floated fresh tenders for the comprehensive upgrade of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) stretch between Silk Board Junction and KR Puram, after bidders in the earlier round failed to meet the eligibility criteria. The project, estimated at Rs 266.16 crore, has been split into two packages, with bids invited until July 8. The first package covers the 5.44-km stretch from Silk Board Junction to Iblur Junction at an estimated Rs 81.67 crore (excluding GST), while the second package, worth Rs 184.49 crore, covers the 11.57-km stretch from Iblur Junction to KR Puram Metro station. The project includes carriageway and service road improvements, footpaths, utility ducts, medians, RCC drains, junction redevelopment, bus bays, shelters, streetlights, landscaping, signage, safety infrastructure, manhole relocation, resurfacing of damaged roads and deployment of home guards for traffic management. — BMB

Safari operations to resume in Bandipur, Nagarahole soon

Jungle safari operations at the Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves will fully reopen following the acceptance of a Technical Committee's recommendations on the parks' scientifically assessed carrying capacity. The state government has directed authorities to operate the safaris in a regulated manner in line with the committee's recommendations. The government said the decision aims to promote sustainable ecotourism that balances conservation with tourism. It added that the model will generate local employment and livelihood opportunities, strengthen the local economy, safeguard ecological integrity and enhance the visitor experience. — BMB

IN HIGH COURT

Wearing uniform no licence to break law

Court condemns misuse of arrest powers without adequate justification, warns of strict consequences for such abuse, while emphasising that arrest must be last resort

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Expressing serious concern over what it described as the routine misuse of arrest powers, the Karnataka High Court reprimanded police officers for detaining accused persons without following established legal safeguards. The court questioned whether police personnel believed that merely wearing a uniform entitled them to act outside the law.

Justice M Nagaprasanna ordered the immediate release of a man arrested in a forgery case filed by his wife and directed that disciplinary proceedings be initiated against the investigating officer attached to Bagaluru Police Station.

The case stemmed from an FIR registered on December 19, 2025, in which a woman accused her husband of forging her signature to execute a partnership deed and open a current bank account without her knowledge.

Justice Nagaprasanna observed that the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that arrest should be used only as a last resort, especially in offences carrying a maximum punishment of seven years or less. In the present case, the court found no material to justify taking the accused into custody apart from a vague allegation of non-cooperation.

Holding that the investigating officer had acted contrary to settled legal principles, the court directed the competent authority to begin a departmental inquiry against the Station House Officer-cum-investigating officer of Bagaluru Police Station and submit its findings within 12 weeks.

Justice Nagaprasanna also strongly criticised the Chitradurga Women Police Station in another matter involving the arrest of the brother of a probationary police sub-inspector accused in a false promise to marry case.

Although the probationary officer was the principal accused, the police also arrested his brother despite there being no allegation that he had made the alleged promise or directly participated in the offence.

Noting that the power of arrest was being exercised without sufficient justification, the court said disciplinary proceedings should be initiated against police personnel responsible for illegal arrests. The matter has been listed for further hearing on July 2.

'Married daughters eligible for compassionate jobs'

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that the amendment to the Karnataka Civil Services (Appointment on Compassionate Grounds) Rules, 1996, which brought married daughters within the definition of "family," operates retrospectively, making them eligible to be considered for compassionate appointment.

A division bench comprising Justice SG Pandit and Justice Rajesh Rai K delivered the judgment while allowing a writ petition filed by a woman whose request for compassionate appointment had been rejected solely because she was married at the time of her father's death.

Setting aside the Tribunal's order, the High Court directed the authorities to reconsider the petitioner's application for compassionate appointment in accordance with the amended Rules and other eligibility conditions, including the prescribed income criteria.

KPTCL barred from unilateral charge hikes

The Karnataka High Court has held that the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) cannot unilaterally revise supervision charges payable by consumers who opt to carry out electrical works on their own, ruling that any such revision requires the approval of the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC).

Justice Ravi V Hosmani delivered the ruling while allowing a petition filed by Anushka Realty Inc, quashing a demand notice issued by KPTCL seeking more than Rs 1.02 crore in supervision charges for electrical works undertaken as part of a residential project in Bengaluru. The court also set aside KPTCL's 2018 order introducing slab-wise supervision charges that exceeded the limits prescribed under KERC regulations.

Labourer electrocuted during metro work

A contract labourer engaged in Namma Metro pillar lighting works was electrocuted while carrying out earth pit excavation near Pillar No 153 outside Trinity Metro Station on Friday afternoon. The worker, employed by M/s M R Electricals, reportedly came into contact with an electric source around 3.52 pm. He was rushed to St Philomena's Hospital but was declared dead on arrival. The exact cause of the incident is yet to be established, with authorities launching a detailed investigation. **–BMB**

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Water scare for city as key reservoir hits a low

Weak monsoon reduces KRS inflows, forcing higher releases while officials prepare contingency measures to safeguard Bengaluru's drinking water supply continuity

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Water levels at the Shiva Anaicut near TK Halli, the critical balancing reservoir that feeds Bengaluru's drinking water network, have dropped to their lowest level in three years, reflecting the impact of a weak monsoon across the Cauvery basin. The fall in storage has forced authorities to increase releases from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir to keep the city's water supply uninterrupted.

Poor rainfall across the Cauvery catchment has sharply reduced inflows into KRS. By Friday morning, the reservoir level had fallen to 81.04 feet (maximum level 124.80 feet), with inflows of just 584 cusecs. Authorities increased releases from 438 cusecs to 2,895 cusecs to maintain Bengaluru's water supply. The Shiva Anaicut last witnessed such low levels during the third week of June 2023, when the reservoir dropped to 77 feet.

According to BWSSB officials, the Shiva Anaicut near Malavalli is the starting point of Bengaluru's Cauvery water supply system and supports more than 90 per cent of the city's drinking water requirement. Water released from the KRS and Kabini reservoirs flows downstream before being diverted at the anaicut. From there, it travels entirely by gravity for 18 kilometres to the treatment plant at TK Halli through

Gravity-fed Cauvery system supplies more than ninety per cent of Bengaluru's drinking water

open canals, balancing reservoirs and transmission pipelines. After filtration and purification, massive booster stations pump the water uphill by 450 metres across an 85-to-110-kilometre distribution network to reach homes on the Bengaluru plateau.

With June ending without the expected monsoon rainfall, officials have warned that prolonged dry conditions could affect drinking water availability in Bengaluru, Mandya and Mysuru if rainfall remains below normal in July. Irrigation from KRS can continue only until the reservoir level falls to around 74 feet. Beyond that, drinking water will take priority, with storage up to the 60-foot level reserved exclusively for domestic supply.

Amid growing concerns, BWSSB Chairperson N Manjula directed officials to activate precautionary measures to prevent any disruption in Bengaluru's water supply. At a recent review meeting with zonal chief engineers, she assessed reservoir storage, water distribution and contingency plans, stressing the need for constant monitoring as rainfall remains uncertain and dependence on reservoirs and groundwater increases.

She also asked officials to obtain a detailed scientific assessment from the Indian Institute of Science on groundwater availability and the condition of borewells across the city. The study, she said, would help assess real-time groundwater reserves and prevent excessive extraction. Manjula also instructed officials to use the available KRS storage judiciously and closely monitor consumption patterns to minimise the risk of shortages later in the season.

> **"Obtain a detailed scientific assessment from the Indian Institute of Science on groundwater availability and the condition of borewells across the city**
> – N Manjula, Chairperson, BWSSB

As part of contingency planning, the BWSSB has been asked to examine alternative water sources, including the possibility of drawing additional water from the Hemavathi and Kabini reservoirs if required. Officials also discussed regulating daily supply should the monsoon continue to underperform, while ensuring equitable distribution across all parts of the city, particularly its fast-growing peripheral areas.

The contrast with last year is stark. By the end of June 2025, KRS had reached full capacity for the first time in its history during June, following which the traditional Bagina ceremony was held on June 30. Compared with the same period last year, the reservoir now holds nearly 40 feet less water.

Tender race begins for B'luru park maintenance

Existing contractors will maintain parks until tender process concludes, while city corporations seek bidders for fresh twelve-month maintenance contracts statewide

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The Horticulture Departments of the respective City Corporations have invited bidders for the maintenance of parks in their jurisdictions. Although the maintenance contracts ended in May, the authorities have asked the existing contractors to continue maintaining the parks until the tender process is completed.

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-2, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, has floated a tender inviting bidders for the maintenance of 16 parks. The estimated maintenance cost varies across parks, ranging from Rs 5.51 lakh for a park in DV Gundappa Ward (Ward No. 34) to Rs 71.37 lakh for parks in Sampangiramanagar (Ward No. 4). The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone-2, has also floated a tender for the maintenance of 51 parks. The technical bids will be opened on July 13, while the financial bids will be opened after the technical bids receive approval.

"The contract for maintenance of the parks ended in May 2026. We have asked the contractors to continue maintaining the parks until the tender process is completed. The tender process is expected to be completed next month. The contract will be for 12 months," said the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone-2.

The tender process for maintaining 154 parks in Jayanagar Zone has already begun. "We have already floated the tender inviting bidders for the maintenance of parks in Jayanagar Zone. I expect the tender process to be completed shortly," said the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Jayanagar Zone.

BM had reported on June 25 about citizens urging maintenance of existing parks amid plans to set up new ones

Some environmentalists have urged the Horticulture Departments of the respective City Corporations to complete the process on time.

"I do not know what is preventing the existing employees of the horticulture department from maintaining the parks," said Gowdaiah, an environmentalist. N R Ramesh, former Leader of Opposition at the BBMP Council, said, "Horticulture department officials can float tenders inviting bidders whenever required. There is no fixed timetable to float tenders for park maintenance. It is a need-based process, and the contract is for 12 months."

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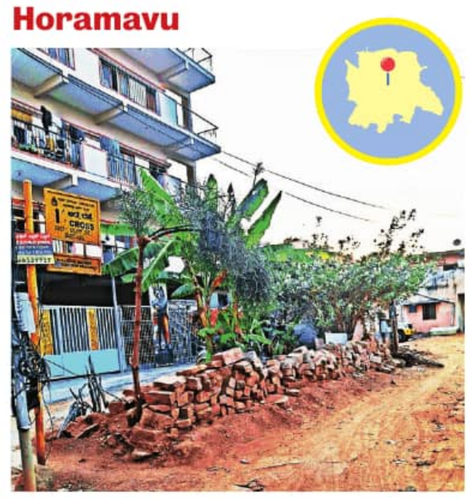
Horamavu 1st Cross Water Tank Road remains partially encroached by stones, while unresolved access issues involving private property have left the cemented stretch damaged and unsafe during the monsoon. Residents allege prolonged negligence by GBA authorities.

Daily struggles
Margondanahalli

Roads in Margondanahalli remain damaged and largely unusable, causing daily inconvenience and making commuting difficult for residents and motorists

Garbage zone
Benniganhalli

Garbage dumped along the Tin Factory–Benniganhalli Metro road has created unsanitary conditions, raising serious health and cleanliness concerns among commuters and residents.

Kanakapura Road sees soaring property demand

Kanakapura Road is fast emerging as one of south Bengaluru's most sought-after real estate corridors, driven by strong infrastructure, seamless connectivity, Cauvery water supply and proximity to major IT hubs. Improved road networks through the Outer Ring Road, NICE Road, NH-209 and the Green Line Metro expansion have boosted demand for premium plots and residential projects. Buyers are increasingly eyeing the stretch for both end-use and investment, with Konanakunte, Talaghattapura, Anjanapura, Kaggalipura and Banashankari Sixth Stage witnessing rapid real estate activity.

Nandagopal, a real estate developer, said, "The corridor offers plotted developments, apartments, builder floors and independent homes, attracting families seeking greener surroundings with urban convenience. Reputed schools, hospitals and tech parks, including Global Village Tech Park and Kalyani Magnum Tech Park, have strengthened the area's appeal. Easy access to Electronic City, Mysuru Road, Bidadi and Harohalli, along with the Metro Phase-2 extension towards Anjanapura Township, is expected to further drive property demand and prices." **–BMB**

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GCCs fuel PE growth

Bengaluru attracted private equity inflows of USD 115.9 million in H1 2026, according to Knight Frank India. India's overall real estate PE investments stood at USD 1.13 billion, down 23 percent year-on-year. The city's inflows came entirely from the office sector, driven by strong momentum from Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and sustained demand for institutional-grade assets, despite investors becoming more selective amid higher interest rates and tighter financial conditions. Among major cities, Bengaluru ranked fourth after NCR (USD 411.1 million), Pune (USD 355.9 million) and Chennai (USD 154.7 million), ahead of Mumbai (USD 84.3 million) and Hyderabad (USD 4.3 million). Nationally, the office segment accounted for 89 percent of total PE investments, reinforcing Bengaluru's position as India's leading technology and office market. **–BMB**

Cabinet clears OC exemption

In a major relief for homeowners across Karnataka, the State Government has approved a one-time exemption from submitting an Occupancy Certificate (OC) to obtain permanent electricity connections for certain residential buildings. The Cabinet cleared the decision, notified on June 22, benefiting thousands of households that completed construction but could not secure power connections due to documentation requirements. The relaxation applies to residential buildings on plots of up to 2,400 sq ft, with a permissible variation of 20%, including G+3 structures and buildings with stilt parking plus four floors. It covers properties that applied for permanent electricity connections on or before May 31, 2026, buildings constructed using temporary power connections and completed buildings without electricity. Eligible owners have 15 days from the government order to apply without producing an OC. The exemption also covers occupied rural farmhouses, agricultural sheds, cattle sheds and sericulture units. **–BMB**

AI surge fuels data centre expansion

Bengaluru's growing appetite for AI, cloud services and global capability centres is driving fresh demand for data centre real estate. The city now holds a development pipeline of 182 MW, according to Knight Frank India. While Bengaluru trails Mumbai (3.75 GW), Hyderabad (1.93 GW) and Chennai (1.36 GW), industry experts say it continues to attract investments from technology occupiers expanding digital infrastructure.

India's overall data centre pipeline has reached 8.33 GW, more than five times the country's current operational capacity of 1.6 GW, signalling a major expansion cycle in digital infrastructure. The report says rising AI adoption, enterprise digitisation and data localisation requirements are driving demand for large-scale data centres, boosting demand for industrial land, power-backed campuses, warehousing and technology-linked real estate. **–BMB**

Premium FAR gets court nod

In a significant verdict for the urban development sector, the High Court upheld the state government's Premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) policy, allowing property owners and developers to construct additional floors by paying a prescribed fee. Dismissing petitions filed by citizen groups and builders challenging the notification, the court ruled that the scheme is not a mechanism to regularise illegal constructions but a legally valid planning tool under the Karnataka Town and Country Planning framework. Under the policy, landowners and developers can purchase additional development rights by paying a fee equivalent to 28% of the property's guidance value, enabling construction beyond the standard permissible FAR, subject to setback and parking norms. The ruling is expected to unlock redevelopment opportunities across Bengaluru and other urban centres, with authorities estimating revenues of nearly Rs 2,000 crore for urban local bodies. Experts believe the policy will boost redevelopment, optimise urban land use, increase housing and commercial space, and attract investments. **–BMB**

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CRIME FILES

Juvenile held for theft of valuables worth ₹5 lakh

Officers at Hennur Police Station have apprehended a juvenile in conflict with law and recovered stolen property including a 9-gram gold chain, four two-wheelers and seven mobile phones worth Rs 5 lakh.

The case surfaced after a complaint was lodged on May 19, when a victim reported that his mobile phone was snatched by a youth riding a two-wheeler while he was heading to his PG accommodation.

Acting on credible information, police nabbed the juvenile near KRB Junction, Nagawara, on May 21. From his possession, officers recovered the stolen phone and a two-wheeler.

Subsequent questioning, conducted under legal procedures, revealed that the juvenile had committed multiple thefts across Hennur, Banaswadi, KG Halli and Shivajinagar.

He was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board in Madiwala for further proceedings. **–BMB**

Burglar nabbed, jewellery worth ₹6 lakh recovered

A man was arrested in connection with a burglary. The case originates from a complaint by a resident of KHM Block, RT Nagar, who returned home on June 9 to find his front door open and 72 grams of gold and 350 grams of silver jewellery missing. He lodged a complaint with RT Nagar police the following day. Police nabbed a suspect near CBI Road on June 14. During interrogation, he confessed and revealed the jewellery was hidden at his PG in Ganganagar. On June 16, police recovered the jewellery valued at Rs 6 lakh. The accused was subsequently remanded to judicial custody on June 17. **–BMB**

Promise of gold at cheap prices costs man ₹25 lakh

A car dealer residing in Vijayanagar was allegedly cheated of Rs 25 lakh in a fake gold scam after being lured with an offer of purchasing 1.5 kg of gold at a price below market rates, leading to an FIR being registered on May 22.

As per police reports, two acquaintances informed the victim that gold had been discovered while drilling a borewell on agricultural land in Harapanahalli.

To gain his trust, the accused sent photographs of gold-like bars via WhatsApp and later showed him a 2-gram gold sample, which was tested at a jewellery shop and found to be genuine.

Believing the offer, the victim initially paid Rs 2 lakh in cash and later handed over another Rs 23 lakh, after which he received approximately 1.5 kg of gold-like bars that were subsequently found to be fake.

Police developed leads that led to the arrest of one accused near an eatery on NH-48 in Chitradurga on June 17. Officials recovered Rs 19.93 lakh from his possession.

The accused was remanded to judicial custody on June 18. Police teams are on the lookout for two absconding accused, and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Bulk waste generators better hurry up & comply

Authority warns of possible fines for violation of rules, sets three-day deadline for bulk waste generators to register on centralised portal

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) on Friday issued notices to bulk waste generators (BWGs), directing them to register on the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) online portal within three days.

The notice, a copy of which is with Bangalore Mirror, warned that failure to register and submit the acknowledgement either by post or email within the stipulated time would invite penalties and environmental compensation.

"The Solid Waste Management Bye-laws, 2020, empower the local authority to impose fines. The Supreme Court of India, in its recent order, has instructed that environmental compensation and remediation shall be imposed without any notice for violations of the rules," the notice stated.

BSWML further noted that Rule 6 of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, outlines the mandatory responsibilities of bulk waste generators. Rule 6(1) requires every entity classified as a bulk waste generator to register with the local authority through the centralised portal developed by the CPCB.

Through the notice, the agency also informed bulk waste generators that the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, is being monitored by the State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) and State Level Supervisory Committee (SLSC), headed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.

"This web portal facilitates the submission of periodic returns by bulk waste generator entities as well as authorised waste processors and processing facilities. These submissions will be verified by the local authority for the generation of Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility certificates," BSWML's notice added.

Apartment associations across city cite lack of clarity as reason for registration delay

Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) urges BSWML to extend registration deadline, stating that effective implementation of new rules requires consultation, awareness, training and collaboration

BAF seeks extension, stakeholder consultations

The Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) has urged BSWML to extend the registration deadline, stating that effective implementation of the new rules requires consultation, awareness, training and collaboration rather than abrupt enforcement.

BAF says the registration timeline should be extended, and there should be detailed clarifications on compliance requirements and stakeholder engagement before initiating penal action.

The federation has proposed consultations with apartment owners' associations (AOAs) and bulk waste generators, awareness and training programmes on portal registration, publication of FAQs and implementation guidelines and a reasonable transition period for registration and compliance.

BAF also sought the establishment of dedicated helpdesks at BSWML and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to assist bulk waste generators with registration and compliance.

"Our objective is not to oppose compliance, but to ensure that implementation is practical, transparent and environmentally effective. Apartment communities in Bengaluru have been active partners in waste segregation, composting, recycling and sustainable waste management, and should be supported through guidance and stakeholder engagement," said Satish Mallya, President of BAF.

Bulk generators call timeline impractical

Bulk waste generators, particularly apartment complexes, have criticized the three-day deadline as unrealistic.

Representatives said thousands of apartment associations have been given only three days to understand the new regulatory framework, determine the applicable category, collect the required documents, complete the registration process and submit acknowledgements.

They argued that the timeline is impractical and inconsistent with the principles of fair implementation.

"The notice refers to penalties and environmental compensation for non-compliance. Before any enforcement action is initiated, bulk waste generators should be given adequate time to understand the new framework and comply with its requirements," said a representative of a bulk waste generator.

Apartment associations delay registration

Nearly a month after the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) made it mandatory for bulk waste generators (BWGs) to register on its centralised Solid Waste Management portal, many apartment complexes in Bengaluru are yet to comply.

Apartment associations cite a lack of clarity on the registration process and ongoing disputes with Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) over revised waste collection and processing charges as the main reasons for the delay.

"We are concerned about who should be the 'authorised person' for registration. Management committees at apartment complexes change every two or three years, so there should be clear guidelines on how these details can be transferred to the next committee," said Valli Srinivasan of Bhuvana Greens in Kasavanahalli.

Many RWAs and BWGs claim they have not received adequate guidance on portal registration, reporting obligations, engaging Authorised Waste Processors (AWPs), or the proposed Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR) framework. Moreover, several operational and legal questions remain unanswered, including registration criteria, reporting requirements, treatment of existing waste management arrangements, responsibilities of local authorities, such as GBA, for user fees and authorised waste processors and enforcement mechanisms.

Srinivasan said the CPCB or Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) should issue a detailed guidance document similar to those provided by other government departments for statutory approvals.

"We also do not know whom to approach for clarification. Another issue is that the application seeks details of the quantity of waste generated, but most apartment complexes do not weigh their garbage, making it difficult to provide accurate figures," she said.

As per the new Solid Waste Management Rule, notified in January 2026, establishments/units generating 40,000 litres per day (LPD) and 100 kg of solid waste with an area of more than 20,000 square feet are Bulk Waste Generators. The new rule replaced the 2016 framework on April 1 and also introduced a centralised digital portal for registration by bulk waste generators for tracking waste flow across the country.

Several apartment associations said they are currently occupied with negotiating rates with BSWML's newly empanelled waste collection and processing vendors.

Prabhu Patil of Rohan Vasantha Apartments, Marathahalli, said, "There will inevitably be some increase in costs. Earlier, there was little accountability for how vendors disposed of waste. Under the new system, waste has to be processed scientifically and in an environmentally responsible manner. That is bound to increase costs."

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

KOEL'S MELODIOUS CALL

Our reader shares a delightful moment of an Asian Koel perched on a terrace, filling the afternoon with its melodious "koo koo" calls. As the bird gradually increased the pitch and intensity of its song, it offered a fascinating glimpse into its natural behaviour. Beyond its beautiful call, the Asian Koel plays an important ecological role by dispersing seeds, controlling insect populations and regulating crow numbers through its brood parasitic nesting habits.

The picture was clicked by reader **Venkatalakshmi S**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Signal-free corridor opens, easing traffic between Mysuru and Magadi

New 11.7-km arterial road promises faster travel, reduced congestion, and improved connectivity across western and southern city zones

Commuters gain toll-free alternative as corridor named after SM Krishna links key growth pockets, cutting travel time by 40 minutes while supporting future metro expansion and urban development

The long-awaited Major Arterial Road designed to provide a signal-free and toll-free alternative between Mysuru Road and Magadi Road, is set to open for public use on June 27, coinciding with Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti. The Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) has named the stretch in honour of former Chief Minister S M Krishna, with officials saying the corridor will significantly ease traffic movement between the city's western and southern zones.

The new arterial road connects the Mysuru Road–Challaghatta Metro station area to Kadabagere Cross on Magadi Road, creating a crucial link to the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. It will serve all nine blocks of the layout while improving access to surrounding areas such as Kempapura, Kommaghatta and Kengalpur. According to BDA officials, the corridor will provide a faster route for thousands of commuters travelling from Mysuru, Mandya, Ramanagara, Hassan and Kunigal to Bengaluru, reducing travel time and congestion on existing roads. A BDA official said, "The 11.7-km-long peripheral corridor, part of a larger 10-lane infrastructure project, has been developed at an estimated cost of ₹631 crore. The road includes 13 major underpasses, 11 bridges and a 270-metre tunnel section. Designed with a 100-metre-wide right of way, the project also features service roads, cycling tracks, a 13-metre central divider and green buffers of nearly 27 metres on both sides, which officials say will support future urban expansion and metro connectivity."

Officials said the corridor will offer an alternative to the NICE Road network, providing a parallel east-west connectivity spine. At present, motorists travelling between Mysuru Road and Magadi Road navigate congested junctions such as Nayandahalli and Sumanahalli, often taking nearly an hour. The new road is expected to reduce travel time to around 20 minutes, saving nearly 40 minutes. The project also connects key growth areas, while its underpasses beneath the Bengaluru–Mysuru railway line showcase box-pushing technology completed without disrupting train operations. Officials said the engineering method allowed work to continue safely below the railway line after securing railway approval, ensuring uninterrupted train services throughout the construction period while accelerating completion of the strategic road corridor.

The corridor links key residential pockets through modern infrastructure, offering smoother access with multiple bridges and underpasses.

DID YOU KNOW?

Researchers using artificial intelligence and advanced imaging said on Thursday they had achieved the first complete reading of a closed Herculaneum scroll burnt by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius nearly 2,000 years ago.
The breakthrough marks a major step toward deciphering hundreds of ancient manuscripts found at Herculaneum, the Roman town destroyed alongside Pompeii in the 79 AD eruption. Researchers used high-resolution scans and computational techniques to virtually unwrap the fragile carbonised scrolls and detect ink without damaging them.
"Just a year ago it would have been crazy for any of us to believe that there would be a complete scroll read completely non-invasively with hundreds of columns of text," said Brent Seales, professor of computer science at the University of Kentucky and one of the founders of the project. "Today we have shown you that that is possible. I believe we're going to read every single one of the scrolls in the collection." The team also recovered new text exploring ethics, arts and human behaviour, while more than 600 unopened scrolls remain available for future study. — Reuters

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Netanyahu's claims about Iran's nuclear program run counter to public evidence

Claim: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed Iran would already possess atomic bombs and would have used them against Israel if Israeli military operations had not disrupted Tehran's nuclear ambitions recently.
Fact: No public evidence supports Netanyahu's claim. The IAEA and U S intelligence say Iran is not building a nuclear weapon, despite enriching uranium to near-weapons-grade levels.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has claimed that Iran would have developed a nuclear weapon and used it on Israel were it not for the two recent wars. There is no public evidence supporting that assessment, which runs counter to findings by the U N nuclear watchdog and U S intelligence agencies.

For decades, Netanyahu has made dire predictions about Iran's disputed nuclear programme, most famously at the United Nations using visual aids. His rhetoric has intensified since the U S and Iran reached an interim peace deal this month and as he prepares for elections later this year.

Iran has consistently maintained that its nuclear programme is peaceful, even as it enriched uranium to near weapons-grade levels, far beyond what civilian purposes require. The United States and several other countries say Iran's nuclear programme had a military component until 2003.

"We have prevented Iran from carrying out a plan to annihilate us, and today they would have had a nuclear weapon, an atomic bomb to do so," Netanyahu said on Sunday at the JNS International Policy Summit. "Had we not acted in Operation Rising Lion and then in Operation Roaring Lion, Iran would have had atomic bombs. And let me tell you something, they would have used them."

However, there is no public evidence that Iran has operated an active nuclear weapons programme since 2003, when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the U S and other governments concluded that Tehran had abandoned such efforts as the United States invaded Iraq. Although IAEA inspections have become increasingly restricted, inspectors have not reported evidence of an active weapons programme.

IAEA Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi has said Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium could potentially enable it to build as many as 10 nuclear bombs if it chose to do so. However, Iran would still need to enrich uranium to 90% purity, build a functioning weapon, miniaturise it and mount it on a ballistic missile. Experts say that process would take months or even years and would likely attract the attention of Israeli or U S intelligence agencies.

A 2025 report by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence stated: "We continue to assess that Iran is not building a nuclear weapon."

Israel launched a 12-day war against Iran in June 2025 under Operation Rising Lion, during which the U S struck Iranian nuclear facilities, destroying centrifuges and halting uranium enrichment. Israel later launched Operation Roaring Lion, targeting senior Iranian leadership. Iranian diplomats have maintained that the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had issued a fatwa prohibiting nuclear weapons, while some other Iranian officials have argued that the country should pursue nuclear arms if its existence comes under threat. — AP

CRIME FILES

Rider critically injured after branch falls on him

A 52-year-old man from Nagarabhavi sustained critical injuries and slipped into coma after a dried tree branch fell on his head while he was riding a two-wheeler near Ram Mandir Road in Rajajinagar on Wednesday evening. The injured has been identified as Sathish, a finance collector at a private finance company in Malleshwaram. Police said the incident occurred around 4.30 pm and was captured on a nearby CCTV camera. Sathish was travelling on his two-wheeler to collect a loan repayment when a dried branch from a roadside tree suddenly snapped and fell directly on his head. The impact caused him to lose control of the vehicle and collapse on the road. CCTV footage shows Sathish was not wearing a helmet at the time of the incident. Passers-by rushed to his aid and shifted him to a nearby hospital. Police registered an NCR at the Rajajinagar police station and have begun a preliminary enquiry. Officials from the GBA Forest Department also visited the accident spot. Sathish remains critical in coma after emergency surgery as residents blame ignored pleas to remove dangerous dried tree branches. **–BMB**

Second suspect arrested in triple murder case

Bengaluru Police have arrested second accused Kenneth (25) in connection with the triple murder reported at an apartment in Seegehalli under the limits of K R Puram Police Station. Police said both the accused allegedly confessed to their involvement during interrogation. The murder case was registered on June 22 after three members of a family were found dead inside the apartment. To speed up the investigation and trace those involved, Bengaluru City Police formed 10 special teams, which investigated the case from multiple angles. According to senior police officials, the police arrested the first accused, Swetha (24), in Puducherry on June 24. During interrogation, she allegedly confessed to murdering three members of her family in conspiracy with Kenneth and revealed details about his role in the crime. A court remanded her to 15 days of police custody on June 25. Police said crucial leads emerged during Swetha's custodial interrogation. "Based on the information provided by the accused and other evidence collected during the investigation, we tracked Kenneth's movements and narrowed down his location to Puducherry," an officer associated with the investigation said.

With Puducherry Police assistance, Bengaluru police arrested Kenneth near Puducherry beach. After spotting him at a bar, officers kept him under survivellance. He allegedly tried to flee but was caught, handed over to K R Puram police, and later allegedly confessed during interrogation. **–BMB**

Darshan's son caught in road row

A new controversy has emerged surrounding Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa's family after a luxury SUV allegedly carrying his son, Vineesh, was involved in a road accident in Bengaluru's Rajarajeshwari Nagar on Thursday. The accident occurred when a Ford Endeavour SUV allegedly rammed a two-wheeler from behind on a road in RR Nagar, causing the rider to lose balance and fall. The biker sustained minor injuries. Locals at the scene alleged that the accident happened due to speeding and reckless driving. Following the collision, the injured biker and several local residents confronted Vineesh after he stepped out of the vehicle. Vijayalakshmi said Vineesh helped biker, urges public against misinformation. **–BMB**

No justice, a year after tiger family poisoning rocked K'taka

Wildlife experts believe outcome of case is crucial and timely conviction would send strong message to those who resort to poisoning wildlife

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One year has passed since the State witnessed one of its most disturbing wildlife crimes: an adult tigress and her four cubs were found dead after consuming poisoned bait in the Meenyam forest of the Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary. The incident, which unfolded on June 26, 2025, shocked conservationists across the country and exposed the growing tension between wildlife and communities living along forest fringes. Although the investigation is complete and a chargesheet has been filed, the case is still being heard in court. Many hope a speedy conviction will serve as a strong deterrent against similar crimes.

The tigress, estimated to be around eight years old, and her four cubs, each about 10 months old, were found dead in the Hoogyam forest range near Hanur. Forest officials concluded that the animals died after consuming beef allegedly laced with poison by local residents seeking revenge for repeated cattle losses. The deaths wiped out an entire tiger family in a single incident, making it one of the most significant wildlife poisoning cases reported in the State in recent years.

Following the incident, the Forest Department arrested Konappa, Madaraja and Nagaraj of Koppa village. The accused were later granted conditional bail by the Kollegal Additional District and Sessions Court after furnishing security bonds. The court directed them not to leave its jurisdiction without permission and to remain present for every hearing. Investigators have since completed the probe and submitted the chargesheet, placing the matter before the trial court.

Forest officials say the tragedy has fundamentally altered their approach to wildlife conservation in the sanctuary. Awareness programmes have been intensified across villages bordering the forest through village development committees, school campaigns and public outreach programmes focusing on wildlife protection, conflict mitigation and environmental conservation. Officials say these initiatives aim to reduce retaliatory attacks on wild animals by improving awareness among communities that share space with wildlife.

Wildlife experts believe the outcome of the case will be closely watched, as offences involving the poisoning of protected animals carry a minimum prison sentence of three years, which can increase to five to seven years for repeat offenders. They argue that a timely conviction would send a strong message to those who resort to poisoning wildlife in retaliation for crop or livestock losses.

Deaths transformed forest conservation efforts, intensified community outreach and revived debate over protecting critical tiger habitats, while families living near forests continue balancing livelihoods with wildlife coexistence

The incident also triggered departmental action. Then Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre ordered disciplinary proceedings against officials for alleged negligence. The Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) and the Range Forest Officer (RFO) were suspended, while the government recommended the suspension of the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), an Indian Forest Service officer.

The tragedy also reignited demands to declare the Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary a dedicated tiger reserve. However, the proposal has made little headway. Local opposition remains strong, with residents pointing out that hundreds of villages within the sanctuary still lack basic infrastructure and questioning the need for a tiger reserve before addressing their long-pending civic concerns.

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FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

Brazil lodge complaint over disallowed goal

Team seeks referee's removal from future matches over Vinicius Jr goal

Vinicius Jr (C) of Brazil competes during the group C match between the group C match between the group C match between Scotland and Brazil at the 2026 FIFA World Cup at Miami Stadium

Brazil have lodged a formal complaint with FIFA over the disallowing of a Vinicius Jr goal during their 3-0 FIFA World Cup 2026 group-stage victory over Scotland, with the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) also requesting that Mexican referee Cesar Ramos no longer officiate the team's matches.

According to goal.com, the controversy arose in the 21st minute of Brazil's final Group C fixture when Vinicius appeared to have doubled his side's lead after winning possession from Jack Hendry and calmly finishing past Scotland goalkeeper Angus Gunn.

Although Ramos initially awarded the goal, a VAR review overturned the decision for a perceived foul in the build-up.

The CBF believes the incident did not warrant intervention under the "clear and obvious" error protocol and has written to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, questioning the consistency of officiating decisions at the tournament.

The CBF has specifically requested that Mexican official Ramos be removed from their future assignments in North America, the goal.com said, adding that in a document seen by Brazilian publication Estadao, the federation cited a "negative history" with the official, harking back to a 2018 World Cup group stage match against Switzerland where they felt they were denied a clear penalty and a foul in the build-up to the Swiss equaliser.

The formal letter argues that Ramos should not have been appointed in the first place given the previous friction, the report said.

The Brazilian federation also cited what it described as inconsistent refereeing standards by comparing the incident with a goal scored by Lionel Messi for Argentina against Austria earlier in the tournament, claiming that similar physical challenges had been allowed to stand.

In its submission, the CBF argued that the overturned goal came as a surprise to everyone on the pitch.

"The decision against Scotland seemed unexpected not only for the Brazilian team, but also for the Scottish players, whose immediate reactions suggested that they did not expect a review or the subsequent annulment of the goal," the federation stated in its complaint, as per goal.com.

Despite the VAR controversy, Brazil cruised to a 3-0 win, with Vinicius later getting on the scoresheet again before Matheus Cunha sealed the victory. The result ensured Carlo Ancelotti's side finished top of Group C and advanced to the round of 32, where they will face Japan in Houston.

Ancelotti chose to focus on his team's progress rather than the officiating debate after the match. "Now we are playing as a team, that is the goal. We are not perfect; we have things to improve. We can be a little quicker when we have control," Ancelotti told reporters after the final whistle, as per goal.com.

"I'm happy because the team has improved a lot; now we are solid. In the knockout stage, solidity is very important. We have a solid team. Compared to the first game, we are making fewer mistakes, we have more rhythm, and we are more effective up front," he concluded. —**ANI**

Competition for places fuels Ivory Coast's progress

Healthy competition for places is fuelling the Ivory Coast's World Cup progress as they advance past the first round for the first time and await a high-profile clash against France or Norway in the last 32. Coach Emerse Fae has a squad laden with attacking talent, and their 2-0 win over Curacao in their last Group E match on Thursday offered evidence of the players' quest to bed down a starting berth.

Those who came on, like 22-year-old Oumar Diakhite and 20-year-old Bazoumana Toure, kept up the intensity of the starters and helped the Ivorians see out a comfortable victory to finish runners-up in the group.

"It is a young group that is growing very nicely and working well," Fae said. "They're all at their first-ever World Cup.

"It's a squad that really sticks together, even those who are competing for a similar position, they're always laughing together, spending a good time together.

"So we're very lucky to have this healthy competition that pushes every player to give their best."

Ivorian progress on Thursday was expected but still delighted the coach.

"I was very happy with the result because it meant we are through. Not everything was perfect, but finishing without conceding any goals was good for our morale and for our confidence for the rest of the tournament," added Fae.

"The squad has to bask in this victory and qualification. It's always easier to recuperate from a victory."

Fae has already been to scout their prospective opponents, who they will play in Dallas on Tuesday.

"It's complicated to say we would prefer to play this or that team. The truth in football is no two games are alike. So what matters most for us is to prepare. "We will definitely watch France versus Norway, and once the match is over and we know who our opponent is, we're going to prepare to play and try to win that game," the coach said. —**Reuters**

Cama Music Sprinters Million generates big buzz

Sports promoter and sponsor of the Juvenile Sprinters' Million, Soli Merwan Cama handing over the Trophy to BTC Stewards Manjunath Ramesh (left) and Manjunath Urs (right) at the Bangalore Turf Club

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

At a time when the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) is facing a financial crunch, hit hard by the 40 percent GST slab and the zoonotic Glanders disease, which put a stop to all the racing operations for five months, the club roped in the premier racing promoter Zavaray Poonawalla and the unassuming Soli Mervan Cama to sponsor some of the major plums this summer season including the Summer Derby, scheduled to be held on July 12.

Sports promoter and racing enthusiast Merwan Cama from the music world disclosed that he loves horses and was keen to associate with the sport of kings. " When I got a chance to pitch in and support the game, I jumped at it and sealed the deal to sponsor three major plums this season ," said Merwan pointing out that the SM Cama Music and Production Million to be run on Saturday has generated a big buzz taking into account that one of the Derby hopefuls Iron Mirage from champion trainer Prasanna Kumar's yard is in the fray for the feature event, which offers a rich purse of one million to the winner.

Sponsorship apart, Mervan revealed that he will pick up a few bred in the purple horses from the top Indian stud farms in the months ahead and make Bengaluru his base for his racing operations. "I understand that as a owner I need to procure quality stock and I will purchase the best galloping goldmines in my effort to enter the Hall Of Fame in the year ahead, said Merwan Cama.

Mervan delighted with his maiden promotion venture in racing revealed that he is sponsoring two other big events including the SM Cama Music Bangalore City Sprint Championship Gold Cup which attracts some of the best horses on the Indian racing circuit. "The idea is to join the elite league and promote and support the game, said Merwan, adding that Cama Music will also conduct a contest of skill on Derby day, offering big prizes to the winners. "The racing buffs are the chief patrons of the game and on the D-day the onus is on the promoters to get the railbirds involved in games of skill and other fashion

All eyes on Iron Mirage from champion trainer Prasanna Kumar's yard

contests," said Merwan adding that the winner of the contest of skill will drive home a Toyota Glanza.

BTC Steward Manjunath Ramesh immensely pleased that the plum event on Saturday has generated maximum interest among the pros and the racing buffs said: "The summer season is highly competitive and we have the best talent crossing swords in an effort to gallop to fame, all through the summer. "Champion trainer Pesi Shroff has won two premier classics and he certainly holds a whip hand in the Derby,"' said Ramesh pointing out that big sponsors also play a stellar role while providing a shot in-the-arm for the sport.

BTC chairman, Shivashankar satisfied with the preparations for the big-ticket events said: "BTC is lucky to have the best horses and top sports promoters in it's fold and that's a healthy sign."

PSYCHEDELICS OFFER HOPE IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Doctors support further research while urging careful regulation, safety standards and evidence before wider clinical adoption

The therapeutic use of psychedelic drugs has attracted no shortage of media and scientific interest over recent years, and this is only likely to grow.

A growing number of studies suggest psychedelics such as MDMA, better known as ecstasy, and psilocybin, the active ingredient in magic mushrooms, can help treat some mental health conditions. Regulators in Australia and New Zealand have also begun allowing limited medical use of these medicines.

Now, researchers are exploring whether psychedelic therapy, typically combining measured doses with psychological treatment in a controlled setting, might help patients as they approach the end of life.

Even when receiving the best available treatments, some palliative care patients report severe psychological and existential distress.

Up to one-third of cancer patients, for instance, report experiencing anxiety and depression. While antidepressants are commonly used, their benefits can be inconsistent and delayed and are often accompanied by unwelcome side effects.

It's here that psychedelic therapies offer a potentially promising alternative. Research into their use is advancing, with more high-quality studies being published each year.

But important questions remain about their safety, effectiveness and appropriate place in clinical practice.

Moreover, we need to know how palliative care doctors themselves feel about psychedelics. One US study found that surveyed clinicians were cautious but still interested in their potential, particularly in relieving existential distress.

To canvas views closer to home, we surveyed nearly 100 working members of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine.

We found widespread support for further research in the space, but also a healthy degree of caution about how and when these therapies should be used.

What doctors told us

Among those we surveyed, around three-quarters disagreed with the notion that psychedelics are unsafe and should not be used clinically.

Nearly nine in ten agreed their use in palliative care warrants further investigation. Younger doctors and those based in New Zealand were somewhat more likely to believe psychedelics could improve patient outcomes.

Unlike some previous studies, we found no meaningful difference in attitudes between genders. Interestingly, many doctors drew a distinction between medical and recreational use.

Half agreed psychedelics should remain illegal for recreational purposes, while a slight majority believed they show promise in the care of palliative patients. Notably, two-thirds of respondents agreed they might improve outcomes when combined with psychotherapy.

Medically assisted dying is another option potentially available to palliative care patients in Australia and New Zealand. A total of 84 per cent of the doctors we asked were either neutral or agreed that psychedelic therapies could offer an alternative for some patients who might otherwise consider this pathway.

Delving deeper into doctors' views, we carried out 12 interviews that turned up several key takeaways.

Overall, the doctors appeared open to new innovations and recognised the therapeutic potential of psychedelics. But they also emphasised the importance of safety, patient-centred care and equity of access to treatments.

The case for more research

Just as with those US findings, our research suggests Australasian palliative care specialists are cautiously optimistic about the potential of psychedelic therapies.

While existing evidence suggests these treatments may help relieve existential distress and other psychiatric symptoms at the end of life, doctors generally agreed that more research is needed to establish their safety, effectiveness and place in palliative care.

The view that emerged was not one of uncritical enthusiasm. Rather, many saw psychedelic therapies as a potentially valuable new tool for managing suffering at the end of life.

Their future role will depend on stronger evidence and, ultimately, regulatory change. This is now happening in Australia and New Zealand, albeit gradually. Both countries recently enacted laws that enable authorised doctors to prescribe psilocybin and MDMA.

And researchers are no longer just speculating, with clinical trials now directly testing psychedelic therapies. In New Zealand, an ongoing trial of MDMA-assisted therapy is already showing promising results among cancer patients experiencing existential distress.

Whether these treatments ultimately enter mainstream palliative care remains an open question. But we now have a much better understanding of what doctors themselves think about that possibility.

By David Menkes, University of Auckland The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Climate policy burdens depend more on lifestyle than income, study across nations finds

A study that estimated the social impact of climate policy in 88 countries has found that the biggest differences are not between the rich and poor, but within the same income groups key factors include car ownership, place of residence and energy use.

The study, published in the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, provides guidance on how to socially balance the fight against global heating, researchers said.

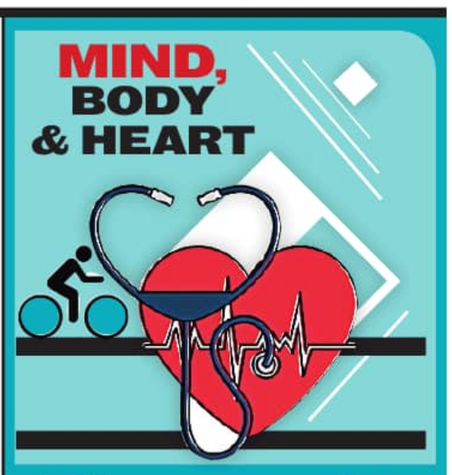
"Uncertainty around the social impacts of climate policy is a problem for many governments worldwide," lead author Leonard Missbach, a researcher at Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said.

"They don't know how the costs of the measures will be distributed across their populations, nor how they can compensate for these burdens in a way that ensures political acceptance. That's why we took a closer look at this using a novel, large-scale dataset and applying machine learning," Missbach said.

The dataset draws on national surveys in which 1.7 million anonymously selected households reported their expenditure, representing the lives of people across 88 countries with a combined population of five billion, the researchers said.

It also included information on the carbon dioxide emissions linked to individual spending items, both directly through petrol and heating oil and indirectly through all other expenditure.

Using the "unprecedented collection of individuals 'carbon footprints'," the researchers analysed who is most affected by climate policy measures, including the additional financial burden relative to household income. Study finds lifestyle, location and energy choices shape climate policy burdens more than income, demanding smarter compensation strategies. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Keto-Friendly fruits

A ketogenic diet involves significantly reducing carbohydrate intake and replacing it with healthy fats to put the body into a state of ketosis, where it burns fat instead of carbohydrates for energy. Although most fruits are high in natural sugars and carbohydrates, a few low-carb options can be included in a keto diet.

Avocado is considered the ultimate keto-friendly fruit. Unlike most fruits, it is packed with healthy fats and contains very few carbohydrates. A whole avocado provides around 15 grams of heart-healthy monounsaturated fats and only about 2 grams of net carbs. It also supports heart health by helping increase good cholesterol while lowering bad cholesterol.

Blackberries are another excellent choice for keto followers. A 100-gram serving contains only about 5 grams of net carbs, while being rich in fibre and antioxidants. These nutrients promote digestive health and help reduce inflammation.

Raspberries are similarly low in carbohydrates, with around 5.4 grams of net carbs and 6.5 grams of dietary fibre per 100 grams. Their high fibre content supports bowel health, helps lower cholesterol levels and assists in regulating blood sugar.

Blueberries, though slightly higher in carbohydrates, can still be included in a ketogenic diet when eaten in moderation. A 100-gram serving contains about 12 grams of net carbs and offers an abundance of vitamins, antioxidants and compounds known for their inflammation-fighting properties.

City's accessibility issues come to the fore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Several users questioned whether adequate consideration had been given to the needs of visually impaired people during the design and construction of the footpath. The incident has renewed debate over the implementation of accessibility measures in public spaces, with critics arguing that infrastructure meant to assist vulnerable pedestrians should be carefully planned to avoid creating new obstacles.

Vaishnavi Jayakumar, a member of Disability Rights Alliance (DRA) said, "Supreme Court upholding the fundamental right to walk will impact two categories of vulnerable road users in particular — persons with reduced mobility and pedestrians who are blind or have low vision. Tactiles can make walking so much safer for blind, but uniformity and consistency are critical. Tactiles installed erroneously, or leading blind persons smack into an obstacle or a subway flight of steps are more dangerous than an environment without any tactile feedback whatsoever."

Tactile pavements, also known as tactile paving, were invented in Japan by Seiichi Miyake in 1965 to help visually impaired people navigate public spaces safely. Miyake developed raised surface patterns that could be detected with a cane or underfoot. The first tactile paving blocks were installed in 1967 near the Okayama School for the Blind. The system used different patterns to convey information, such as warning of hazards or indicating a safe direction of travel. Its success led to widespread adoption across Japan before spreading globally. Today, tactile pavements are a key feature of accessible urban infrastructure.

Anita Iyer Narayan, a disability rights advocate, told BM that tactile pavements are broadly classified into two types: warning tactile paving (stop tile) and directional tactile paving (walk tile). Each serves a distinct purpose in helping people with visual impairments navigate public spaces safely and independently. "Warning tactile paving consists of raised dots or truncated domes arranged in a regular pattern. It is used to alert potential hazards or decision points, such as pedestrian crossings, railway platform edges, staircases, ramps, and changes in level. The textured surface can be detected underfoot or with a cane, signalling users to exercise caution and be aware of their surroundings. Directional tactile paving, also known as guidance paving, features raised parallel bars or ridges. It is designed to guide visually impaired pedestrians along a safe and accessible route, particularly in open areas where there are few natural navigational cues. The ridges indicate the direction of travel and help users reach destinations such as entrances, exits, transit stations, and pedestrian crossings," she explained.

She noted that the tiles can either be of contrasting colours to aid those with poor vision or have the same colour while having different textures.

"Tactile paving is only effective when it forms a continuous, uninterrupted path. A broken guidance trail can create unnecessary confusion and uncertainty for visually impaired pedestrians, defeating the very purpose of accessibility. Continuity ensures that tactile cues remain reliable, allowing users to navigate public spaces with confidence, safety and independence," she stressed on the need for their continuity. She noted that in areas such as Church Street and MG Road, where tactile pavements have been installed, they are a hassle to navigate. "Many shops tend to marble the top of pavements that lead to their shops. Residents 'beautify' the footpaths outside their homes by making gardens. Trees also sometimes pose a risk as they break continuity," she said.

"Urban accessibility projects cannot succeed when responsibility is fragmented across multiple agencies and contractors. A single planner or coordinating authority must oversee the entire journey—from design to execution—so that essential features like tactile paving remain continuous, consistent and usable for the people who depend on them," Iyer said.

Viswesh Sekhar, a senior practising advocate specialising in human rights and disability law, said that Bengaluru is the most dangerous city for the visually impaired. "Inconsistency is a fact," he said and recalled the Supreme Court's decision in Rajive Raturi v. Union of India — a landmark ruling on the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly the right to accessibility. The case, initiated by visually impaired activist Rajive Raturi, sought barrier-free access to public spaces, transport and government services. In its 2024 judgment, the Court held that accessibility is a fundamental right flowing from the Constitution and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. It ruled that accessibility standards cannot remain merely recommendatory and directed the Union government to frame mandatory rules, ensuring public infrastructure and services are accessible to all persons with disabilities.

Further, Sekar noted that metro stations in the city have fairly maintained a good standard of tactile pavements. He raised caution about the presence of bollards, noting that they also act as barriers, not just to the visually impaired but also to wheelchair users. "Hearing a suo motu public interest litigation, the Bombay High Court has also noted that bollards installed on footpaths were preventing wheelchair users from accessing public spaces," he said. He called for strict access audits as those who are involved in building these infrastructures often do not have first hand lived experience.

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real estate

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANISH FATHIMA JAMAL (Old Name) W/o Imran Khan resident of No 226 2nd Main Road Magadi Main Road, G. Hosahalli BANGALORE-560091 have changed my name to ANISH FATHIMA (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 22/6/2026 Before Notary M.K.Devaki Bangalore.

I, GHOUSE MOHIDDIN, S/o ABDUL KAREEM, R/o RISALA PALYA, HIREHALLI, TUMKUR, KARNATAKA-572104. I have changed my name to GHOUSE MOHIDDIN KAREEM vide affidavit dated: 25/06/2026 FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, MOHAMED TAHER, R/a. #108,3rd Floor, 5th Cross, Chandni Chowk Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore–51. I, have Changed my name to MOHAMMED TAHER, Vide affidavit dated 09/06/2026 Sworn before Notary: G Dayananda Bangalore

I, Rajakumara P, S/o Parame shwar, R/at #292/1/3, 1st Main road, 2nd A Cross, Chikkabo mmasandra, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore North, GKVK Bangalore-560065, have chan ged my name to RAJKUMAR P, vide affidavit dt: 26.06.2026, Notary V. Rangaraju, B.lore.

I, Mohamedanis Abdul Sattar Kasmani S/o Kasmani Abdul Sattar Abdul Karim R/o No D-4 Memon Colony Near Railway Gate Gangodana Halli Nayandahalli, Bengaluru :560039, Have Changed My Name to Anish Sattar Kasmani for All Purposes

I, Hajira Parveen W/o Syed Shabbir R/O No 1333 Near Abu Bakar Masjid Rahamath Nagar Kolar - 563101 Have Changed My Name to Hajeera Parveen for All Purposes

I am Keerthi Masuti W/o Avinash R, R/O no 21 Bengaluru, I have changed my name from Keerti Durgadas to Keerthi masuti

I, APARNA RAJAGOPAL, residing at above Ashwini Childrens Hospital, BLDE Rd, Vijayapura, Karnataka- 586103 have changed to APARNA AMOGH BIDARI Vide aff Dt.25/06/2026 sworn before Notary Devraja E. B'lore.

I Triveni Nagaraja Reddy, W/o Nagaraja Reddy.A, Residing At Survey Number 297/4,Bidar - guppe, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bidaragupee Bengaluru-562107 have changed my name to Triveni Ramaswamy Reddy for all purposes

I, Anisha Suresh Dass D/o Suresh A Dass R/o No 418, Ashoka Legend, Hennur Bande, Hennur Garden, Bangalore -560043, Karnataka. Changed my name as Anisha Dass for all future purposes

I Gwendoline Molly Bascrans R/O No 57 4th Cross 1st Block R.m.v Extn 2nd Stage Bengaluru :560094, Have Changed My Name to Gwendoline Molly Panjwani for All Purposes

I, Hafsa Sadiya Abdul Rasheed R/o No 16/7 New 7 Dr Omer Shariff Road Basavanagudi 560004 Have Changed My Name to Hafsa Sadiya for All Purposes

GALLERIA

28,500 SQ.FT. WITH OLD BUILDING AT KUDLU GATE - HOSUR ROAD, PLEASE CONTACT
MOB: 98804 98007

Vendors using shops as storerooms

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Four or five vendors came forward to rent shops. However, for reasons known only to them, they are using the rented premises as storerooms," said Veeresh. The foundation stone for the underground market was laid on December 10, 2017, by local MLA M Krishnappa. Initially estimated to cost Rs 5 crore, the project was scheduled for completion within 18 months, by June 2019. However, the contractor failed to meet the deadline, completing only 60 per cent of the work within the stipulated period.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, 'Air-conditioned underground market will bury us, say local vendors', on May 29, 2019, highlighting vendors' concerns over the inordinate delay in completing the project.

When this correspondent visited Krishnadevaraya Palike Bazar on Thursday, most shops were found to be unoccupied. It is learnt that four or five street vendors were allotted shops, which they now use as storerooms for furniture, umbrellas and other items while continuing to conduct business on the roadside.

"I have been selling pooja items for more than 40 years. Throughout this period, I have operated from a petty shop on the roadside. Our MLA's office allotted me this shop 18 months ago, but the authorities are yet to fix the rent," said Manju, a street vendor.

Another vendor, Sanjay, said around 50 street vendors were expected to receive shops under the relocation programme.

"I was allotted a shop at Krishnadevaraya Palike Bazar and intend to shift my business to the air-conditioned underground market. However, the authorities are yet to fix the rent," he said.

Ramu T of Vijayanagara Nagareeka Vedike said the need of the hour was to keep footpaths free from all forms of encroachment.

"The authorities must relocate street vendors to designated locations in accordance with the court order," he said.

 # After 12-year break
Hollywood actor Seth Rogen is set to direct his next movie again. The actor is returning to direction after 12 years

GREAT PHASE

Samantha reveals why she's taking break at peak of her comeback

Samantha is embracing a season of new beginnings after a transformative chapter in her life. Diagnosed with myositis in 2022, the autoimmune condition compelled the actress to slow down, reassess her priorities and rebuild both personally and professionally. Fresh off the release of Maa Inti Bangaram, which marks her return to the big screen after a three-year hiatus, Samantha reflects on living with myositis and a new personal milestone — expecting her first child with filmmaker husband Raj Nidimoru.

Samantha says life after myositis has fundamentally altered her relationship with work and with her own body. "Everyday I wake up and pray that there is no trigger and that I have the energy and strength to shoot through the day. There is this tiny fear about not having enough energy to make it through the day. When I was first offered Maa Inti Bangaram, I was petrified. I didn't know if I would be able to do it or if my body would allow it. When you have certain restrictions and constraints, you make the most of every single day." Crediting Raj for the film's success, she adds, "If today this is being called my film, it is because Raj crafted and created the story to fit my strengths and help me shine."

While she is high on the success of her recent release, what is occupying her mind space now is her pregnancy. She confirms that she is preparing to step away from work for a while. "This is a really great phase of my life and I'm looking forward to a maternity break."

—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

Bella on pains of living with chronic illness

Model Bella Hadid has shared an emotional update about living with Lyme disease, as she opened up about the physical pain and mental struggles she is currently facing during flare-ups of her chronic illness.

According to PEOPLE magazine, on Thursday, June 25, the 29-year-old took to her Instagram stories and spoke about the pain, exhaustion, anxiety, brain fog, infections, and trauma she experiences during flare-ups. She said these symptoms often leave her feeling isolated and can lead to depression, especially when they continue for a long time.

Bella said it is difficult to explain what living with a chronic illness feels like. She shared that even after trying different treatments, reading about her condition, and looking for answers, she still faces setbacks.

According to PEOPLE, she wrote, "Especially when you try anything you can. You demand answers that no one can find. You fight. You finally have a few good days. You think you've found the right protocol, the right routine, the right treatment... and then a flare-up comes back and all of a sudden nothing feels certain again."

The model also said that flare-ups often force her to cancel plans because she never knows how she will feel from one day to the next. "You wake up with anxiety already living in your body. Physical pain before your feet even touch the floor.... And somehow, you still have to find the strength to move through another day in a body and mind that are completely exhausted," she wrote. Bella went on to add that she has learned to hide many of her feelings because people who have never lived with a chronic illness may not fully understand what it is like. **—ANI**

A visual romantic treat

MODA KAVIDA VATAVARANA
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Simple Suni
- **ACTORS** Sheelam M Swamy, Moksha Kushal, Saathvika, Rishi, Rekha S Prasad, and Dhananjaya Didaga
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 120 minutes

Moda Kavida Vatavarana (cloudy atmosphere) is Simple Suni's 12th film as a director in 13 years. Simple Suni always ensures that dialogues in his films have a hint of humour. In this film too the conversations between the protagonist and a receptionist-cum-room boy at a resort will make audiences have a hearty laugh.

Locations where Moda Kavida Vatavarana is shot also add value. Santosh Rai Pathaje deserves praise for capturing the greenery.

The director also uses a minimum number of actors and doesn't indulge in heroics. The movie begins with a father telling a story to his daughter from atop an apartment. The scene then shifts to a resort where two couples arrive on the same day -- Cherish (Sheelam M Swamy), a psychiatrist, and his girlfriend Sathvika (Sathvika) and Dhanu (Dhanajaya Didaga) and his fiancée Souparnika (Moksha Kushal). They come to the resort carrying with a baggage of untold stories. While Dr Cherish and Sathvika want to discuss how to take their relationship forward, Dhanu and Souparnika are in talks about preparations for their marriage. However, in a turn of circumstances, Souparnika gets close to Cherish. At this juncture, Souparnika is seen discussing something with a doctor over the phone. Souparnika is suffering from cluster personality disorder. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Souparnika and Cherish.

Sheelam M Swamy, like an experienced actor, has carried the movie on his shoulders. His dialogue delivery and gestures are very good. Perhaps, this movie has given the most screen space to Sathvika in her acting career. Moksha Kushal walks away with all honours for her sterling performance. Rishi deserves a pat on the back for agreeing to play such a role. Rekha S Prasad and Dhananjaya Didaga provided good support. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

'If I'm told no, I want to do it even more'

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas has opened up about the philosophy behind her decades-long career.

Priyanka spoke to People President Leah Wyar during a panel titled 'Building Legacy: Moving Culture through Originality and Borderless Expression' at Cannes Lions 2026.

She reflected on how staying authentic while continuing to evolve has required constant listening and experimentation. "I always want to be authentic to myself in everything I do, but keeping people's attention is a really tough job, and you can only do it through evolution," Priyanka said. The 'Mary Kom' star added that her early career was marked by a relentless pursuit of perfection before she came to a different understanding. "But over time, I realized that emotional connection [to fans] came from saying, 'I made a mistake' ... and I think that's okay.

That emotional connection with your audience comes from being able to accept that I'm doing my best," according to People.

Priyanka also credited her drive. "I'm very ambitious, and if I'm said no to, I want to do it even more," she said. **—ANI**

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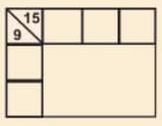
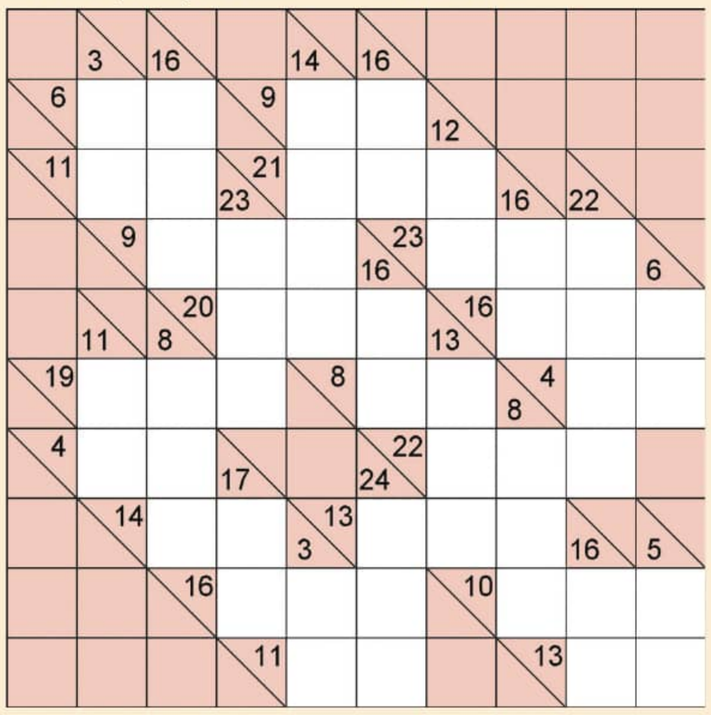
Kakuro

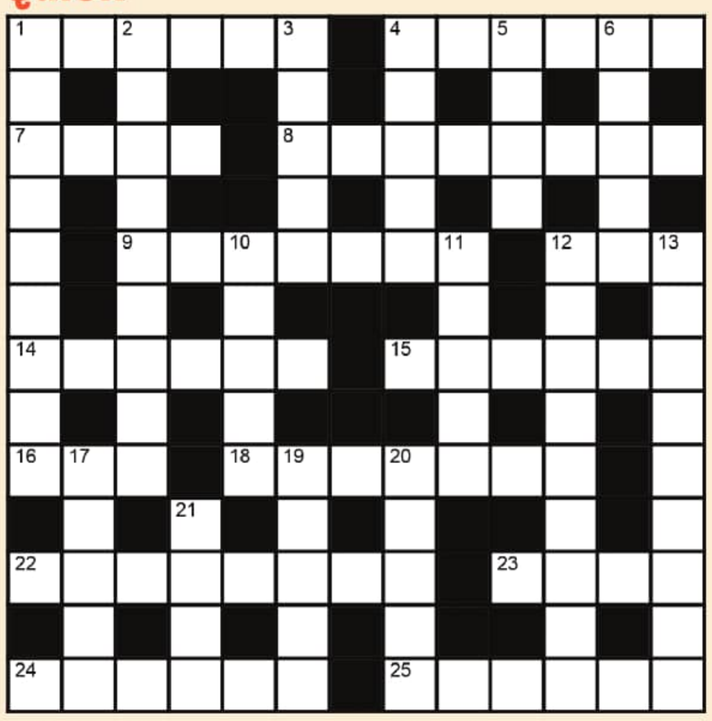
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Developed into (6)
4 Sharp bend (6)
7 Melody (4)
8 Having high centre of gravity (3-5)
9 Bangalore cinema home to India's first 4k screen (7)
12 Any doctrine (3)
14 Niggardly (6)
15 Profoundly (6)
16 Play on words (3)
18 Strong feeling (7)
22 Absolute ruler (8)
23 Panorama or prospect (4)
24 Feels jealous of? (6)
25 Panhandler (6)

DOWN

1 Attempts to curry favour (7,2)
2 Roman soldier (9)
3 More than usual (5)
4 Distance down (5)
5 Great delight (4)
6 Roof overhang (5)
10 Not very clear (5)
11 Boadicea's people (5)
12 About to happen (9)
13 Pilgrim Fathers' ship (9)
17 Joint or bond (5)
19 Legends or epics (5)
20 Pulsate (5)
21 Needle case (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS T

EJI MBCOSIU AGEJ EJI PWEWBI GY EJQE GE XIIMY EWBFGFN GFEC EJI MBIYIFE.

Linemaro

Could you dial down your hotness, it's causing global warming

Mindchow

If we really think that home is elsewhere and that this life is a "wandering to find home," why should we not look forward to the arrival?

Joke of the day

I told my dentist my teeth are going yellow; he told me to wear a brown tie

Loop

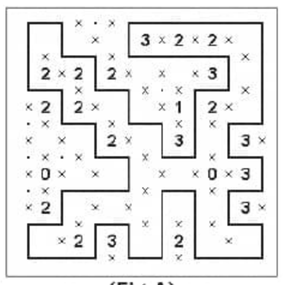
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

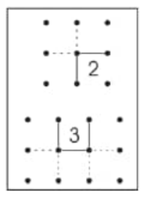
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

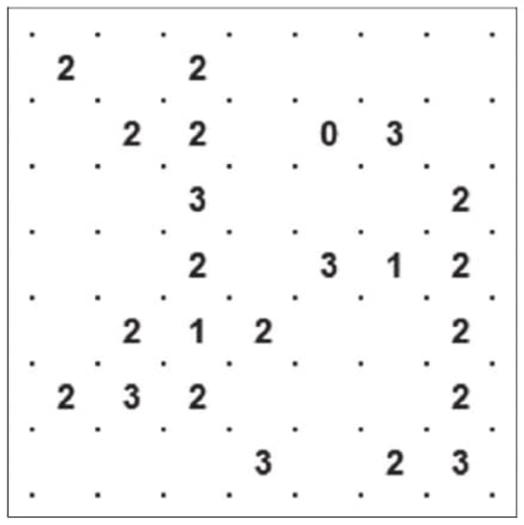
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



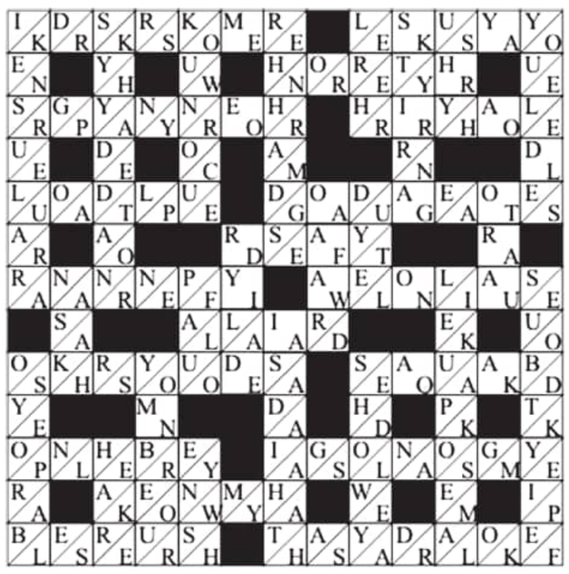
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 P	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

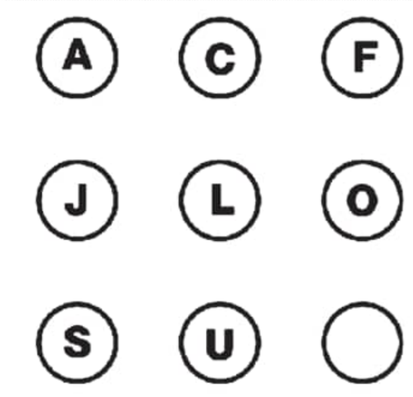
1 Leapt; 6 Ah pal; 7 Antes; 8 Inter; 9 Cos Mr

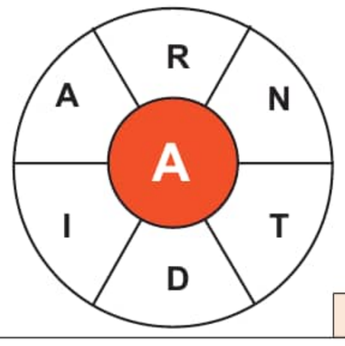
DOWN

1 In Cap; 2 No all; 3 Pater; 4 R them; 5 Asset

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the blank and completes the puzzle?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7						6	
					8		7	9
3	6		9			1		
		2	4		6			8
	8			7			3	
4			1		2	7		
		7			4		5	2
5	1		8					
	4						8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4

1 4 5 6

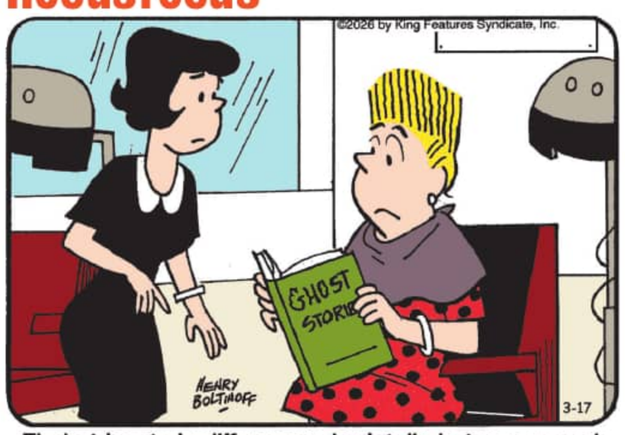
Medium = 18

1 6 9 9

Hard = 21

4 5 6 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

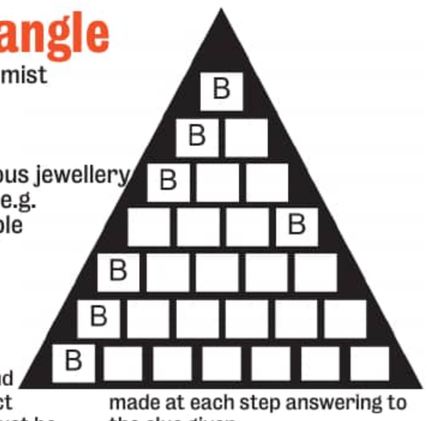
Differences: 1. Book is smaller. 2. Ann of chair is higher. 3. Ann is moved. 4. Collar is different. 5. Back of chair is lower. 6. Dress is shorter.

Riddler

I constantly collide into all the others, The only one of 16 without colors. Associated with English and banking and breaking, The answer is right there for the taking.

Alpha triangle

1 Boron for the chemist
2 Two
3 Large
4 Smooth-talking
5 Flashy, ostentatious jewellery
6 Piling up like hay, e.g.
7 Holding responsible



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

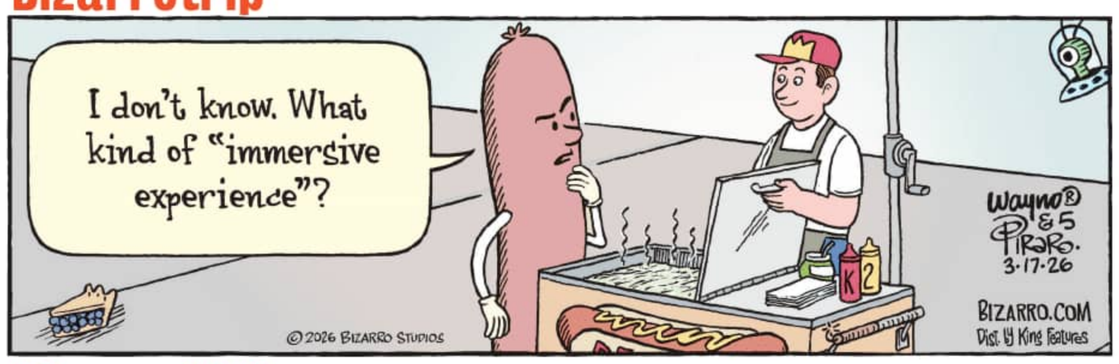
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

YA IS WRONG! YA CAN'T LET LI'L SWEE'PEA LEAVE HOME!
I SEZ I KNOWS WHAT I YAM DOIN'!
YER CRAZY!
AN' YER NERTS!
BLASTID GENERATION GAP!!
9-25
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip


I don't know. What kind of "immersive experience"?
Wayno & Piraro 3-17-26
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features
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Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

YOU'VE BEEN CHEATING ON ME!!
SLAM!!!
WE KNOW YOU'VE BEEN FLIRTING WITH ALL OF US TO GET US TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK!!
IS THAT... A BAD THING?
YES!!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, I READ AN INTERVIEW WITH 'TERRY AND THE PIRATES' CREATOR MILTON CANIFF...
WHERE HE SAID THAT HE DREW ON A TWO-PLY KID FINISH BRISTOL BOARD.
I FELT AS THOUGH I'D BEEN MADE PRIVY TO A SECRET OF THE TRADE... AND MADE UP MY MIND TO FIND SOME OF THAT BRISTOL BOARD!
3-17
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books
© 2026 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Mutts

PRETTY SOON, MOOCH, A FAMILY WILL BE MOVING BACK INTO THAT HOUSE.
A FAMILY!
SURE... A MOM... A DAD... AND THEN... A BABY ...OR TWO!
WOW
THEY'RE GOING TO NEED AN ADDITION.
3-17
mutts.com

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your social life sparkles as you connect with brilliant, like-minded innovators. Career collaborations are highly favoured, so brainstorm freely without filtering your unique ideas. A steady financial outlook allows you to pamper yourself with a relaxing spa day. In love, clear expectations prevent minor emotional friction. Prioritise getting high-quality, uninterrupted sleep to recharge your busy mind.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Stay neutral during conflicts today instead of choosing sides between people you care about deeply. Remaining diplomatic protects important relationships while helping everyone involved feel respected, understood, emotionally balanced, and peacefully supported throughout.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Financial success finally arrives today through an important deal closing beautifully in your favour. Celebrate your achievement proudly with loved ones, appreciate your hard work, and enjoy the abundance entering your life happily.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Showing vulnerability today helps others understand your feelings and respect your emotions more deeply. Honest expression strengthens relationships naturally while reminding people that sensitivity, compassion, and emotional boundaries deserve kindness and thoughtful treatment.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Before trusting people completely today, notice whether they truly support you during difficult moments too. Protecting your emotional energy carefully helps you avoid unhealthy relationships while strengthening meaningful, balanced, and trustworthy connections instead.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Balancing kindness with professionalism becomes important today, especially regarding friendships and responsibilities. Giving people excessive leniency may affect your results negatively, so maintain healthy boundaries while protecting both relationships and personal productivity carefully.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Carefully reconsider partnerships before committing yourself emotionally or professionally today. Someone may become controlling or limiting unexpectedly later. Researching people thoroughly helps protect your independence, confidence, emotional wellbeing, and future success from unnecessary complications.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Your efforts are finally approaching rewarding results, even if progress currently feels invisible. Stay patient and continue working consistently. Success, recognition, and positive outcomes are developing steadily behind the scenes for you beautifully.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

A workplace attraction may develop beautifully today, bringing exciting romantic possibilities unexpectedly. The feelings appear mutual, though unspoken currently. Showing subtle interest confidently helps create emotional connection while encouraging honest communication and meaningful chemistry naturally.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Professional success deserves celebration, though personal relationships require equal attention today. Reconnect with friends, family, and loved ones thoughtfully. Balancing career ambitions with emotional connections creates greater happiness, stability, and fulfillment throughout your life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Ignoring unnecessary pressure today protects your peace and emotional wellbeing beautifully. Missing certain experiences may actually benefit you more currently. Staying true to yourself helps maintain confidence, independence, and healthier decision-making without outside influence.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Be extra mindful with spending today because unexpected situations may require significant financial resources later. Saving carefully now protects your stability beautifully while helping you handle sudden challenges calmly, confidently, and responsibly without unnecessary stress.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Creative energy flows strongly through you today, inspiring exciting projects and artistic exploration naturally. Expressing your imagination freely helps uncover meaningful hobbies, strengthen confidence, and bring joyful inspiration into your personal world beautifully.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 9×9-1 = 81-1 = 80

RIDDLER
The cue ball on a pool table. (Explanation: English is when spin is put on the cue ball to make it curve or bounce differently off the rail. Banking is when a shot is played off the rail. Breaking is the first shot played in a game of pool. The hint refers to the fact that chalk is placed on a cue before it strikes the cue ball.)

QUOTE UNCODE
The problem with the future is that it keeps turning into the present.

STRIKE OUT

I	R	K	S	O	M	E		E	S	S	A	Y		
N	H		U		N	O	R	T	H		E			
S	P	A	N	N	E	R		R	I	Y	A	L		
U		D		C		A		N			L			
L	A	D	L	E		G	A	D	G	E	T	S		
	A		D	E	F	Y				A				
R	A	R	E	F	Y		A	E	O	L	U	S		
S	H	R	O	U	D	S		S	Q	U	A	B		
E		M		A		H		K		T				
P	L	E	B	E		I	S	O	N	O	M	Y		
A		K	E	N	Y	A		W		M		P		
L	E	E	R	S		H	A	Y	R	A	K	E		

FAST FIVE

				E
				T
				S
				A
				T

QUICK

B	E	C	A	M	E		D	O	G	L	E	G		
U		E		X		E		L		A		V	Y	
T	U	N	E		T	O	P	H	E	A	V	Y		
E		T		R		T		E						
R		R		A		C		M		A				
E	U	R	V	A	S	H	I		I	S	M			
S	T	I	N	G	Y		D	E	E	P	L	Y		
U		O		U		E	M	O	T	I	O	N		
P	U	N				Y		H		D		O		
N		E								N		L		
D	I	C	T	A	T	O	R		V	I	E	W		
O		U		H		O		N		M		Y		
E	N	V	I	E	S		B	E	G	G	A	R		

MENSA PUZZLE
X. Working left to right, starting on the top row, letters increase in value in steps of 2, 3 and 4.

BULL'S EYE
aria, arid, atria, darn, dart, data, drain, drat, radian, RADIANT, raid, rain, rant, tiara, train, triad

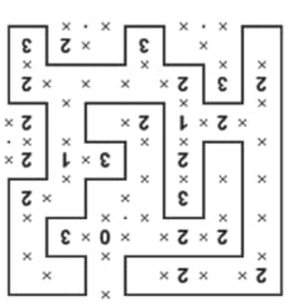
SUDOKU

2	4	6	7	9	5	3	8	1
5	1	9	8	2	3	6	4	7
8	3	7	6	1	4	9	5	2
4	5	3	1	8	2	7	9	6
6	8	1	5	7	9	2	3	4
7	9	2	4	3	6	5	1	8
3	6	8	9	4	7	1	2	5
1	2	5	3	6	8	4	7	9
9	7	4	2	5	1	8	6	3

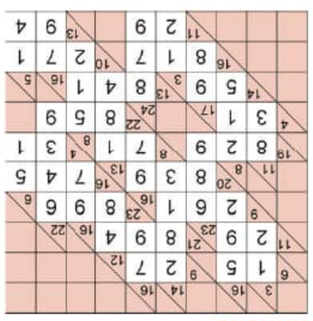
ALPHA TRIANGLE
B, Bi, Big, Glib, Bling, Baling, Blaming.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 5 – 6 + 1 = 4
Medium
9 – 6 – 1 × 9 = 18
Hard
4 + 5 – 6 × 7 = 21

LOOP



KAKURO



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Ready for B-Town

Anjali Sivaraman is hoping to make Hindi film debut soon

Actor Anjali Sivaraman is steadily carving out a place for herself with a string of notable projects. After making an impression with Netflix's 'Class' and earning praise for her performance in the Tamil film 'Bad Girl', the actor has now landed an international project in Mira Nair's upcoming film 'Amri'.

While that marks a significant milestone in her career, Sivaraman says her next destination is Hindi cinema.

The actor revealed that although she hasn't finalised her next Bollywood project yet, she is actively reading scripts and hopes to make her Hindi film debut soon.

Fresh off the buzz surrounding 'Bad Girl', Sivaraman shared that she is carefully considering her next move instead of rushing into projects.

"Hopefully, my next project will be in Hindi films. I haven't signed anything yet, but I am reading a lot [of scripts]. I'm hoping to be a part of at least one."

Having already expanded her filmography across digital platforms, Tamil cinema and now international cinema with 'Amri', the actor believes the time is right to explore opportunities in Bollywood. When asked about the filmmakers she hopes to collaborate with, Sivaraman didn't hesitate to name two of Hindi cinema's most acclaimed directors, Zoya Akhtar and Meghna Gulzar. "I want to work with Zoya Akhtar and Meghna Gulzar." Explaining why she is particularly drawn to women filmmakers, she added, "They have such a strong voice and incredibly strong female characters."

According to the actor, stories led by layered women are the kind of projects she naturally gravitates towards. Despite being in the early stages of her career, Sivaraman already has a clear idea of the characters she wants to portray.

— ETimes

Virginie Efira to receive Leopard Club Award at Locarno Film Festival

Actor Virginie Efira will be honoured with the Leopard Club Award at the 79th edition of the Locarno Film Festival, recognising her contribution to contemporary cinema, according to Variety.

The festival announced that Efira will receive the honour on August 7, when her latest film, All of a Sudden, directed by Ryusuke Hamaguchi, will be screened at the iconic 6,500-seat Piazza Grande venue in the Swiss lakeside town.

Efira recently appeared in the Cannes Film Festival competition with lead roles in Hamaguchi's All of a Sudden and Asghar Farhadi's Parallel Tales. She also won acting honours at Cannes for her performance in All of a Sudden, for which she partly learned Japanese for the role. In a statement, the Locarno Film Festival said Efira's career has been marked by "memorable turns" in films by Dutch filmmaker Paul Verhoeven and Anatomy of a Fall director Justine Triet, according to Variety.

"In Verhoeven's Elle (2016), and especially in Benedetta (2021), Efira demonstrated a willingness to inhabit provocative, demanding characters whose thorny complexities resist easy categorization," the festival said.

"Her extraordinary performances in Triet's Victoria (2016) and Sibyl (2019) likewise confirmed that gift and, along with a handful of other remarkable films of that period, secured her status as one of the rising stars of modern European cinema," it added, according to Variety.

—ANI

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